VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

VOL. 3 NO. 3 APRIL 2000

STEVE WINS! PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Steve Black will be a delegate to the Democratic Convention after a resounding victory in the Primary Election. He came in third in a field of twelve candidates, trailing only State Senator Lisa Boscola and LV Democratic Party Chair Emrich Stellar. Five Delegates were elected. Steve, who is a founding member of PA-GALA and one of the most dedicated (openly gay) political activists in the state, will be an important advocate for the entire United States GLBT community at the Convention. Congratulations Steve!

In the US Senator race, Ron Klink (D), winner of the Democratic Primary, will run against ultra conservative Rick Santorum (R). Klink was a cosponsor of ENDA and the US Hate Crimes Bill, his record on Gay and Lesbian issues is excellent compared to Santorum. Allyson Schwartz (D) (who was endorsed by PA-GALA) came in second in the field of six.

Locally, four PA-GALA endorsed candidates for State House won: Mann (D), Freeman (D), Rooney (D), and McCaul(D). Newcomer Mike Mullen (D) had a strong showing with 37% of the vote, but Frank Yandrisevits (D) who has voted for the Hate Crimes Bill, will run against incumbent Julie Harhart (R). who has a poor record on GLBT issues.

In the 131st District, Peter Antonsen (D), who is willing to co-sponsor the Hate Crimes Bill and a bill to amend the PA Human Relations Act to include sexual orientation, beat Norma Cusick (D). Cusick refused to respond to PA-GALA's questionnaire and was characterized in the Morning Call as "skittish" of gay rights issues. Cusick lost by less than the number of GLBT voters PA-GALA lists in that district. Antonsen will face Pat Browne (R) in the fall.

The day before the election PA-GALA volunteers called 700+ LV GLBT voters to remind them to use their candidate guide and vote on April 4. The election results were very positive for the community.

ELLEN AT STATE THEATER MAY 4

Ellen DeGeneres will appear at Easton's State Theatre on May 4th. There are still a few seats left to see one of the most important lesbian activists of the 20th and 21st. centuries, perform her newest comedy routine. Call 610-252-3132 for tickets.

ACCO WORKS WITH YSAYE BARNWELL ON YOUTH EVENT

ACCO (A Chorus Celebrating Women) will join the Northeast Middle School singers in their spring concert on April 27 at 7:30 pm. ACCO and NMS have collaborated in an intergenerational project called "Musical Design for Racial Justice." ACCO commissioned Ysaye Barnwell, of "Sweet Honey in the Rock," to compose original pieces from texts written by three NMS eighth graders. ACCO members, NMS staff and students will interact with Dr. Barnwell, on April 26th, during the final rehearsal.

ACCO will also perform April 14th at 7:30 pm this month at Godfrey Daniel's, with new tunes and old favorites,. The Chorus invite's the entire community to join in "La Bomba," bring your own rhythm instrument, and drum, dance and sing. Get tickets at Godfrey's in South Bethlehem, 610-867-2390.

JUDY SHEPARD MAKES UNPUBLICIZED APPEARANCE AT MUHLENBERG

On Thursday April 6th, Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, joined filmmaker Brent Scarpo in a presentation of his documentary film "Journey to a Hate Free Millennium". Read about it in a column in the next VFP.

PRIDE LEHIGH VALLEY

New Pride Logo!

PRIDE NEWS

Plans for the Lehigh Valley Pride Festival continue to go full speed ahead. Two weeks of events will precede the huge festival on June 17th in Cedar Beach Park, Allentown. For full coverage see pages 4 & 5.

DIAMONZ SPONSORS BUSES TO MILLENNIUM MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Two buses will leave for the Millenium March on Washington from Diamonz parking lot at 4 am, April 30 and return at 8 pm that night. The cost is $25.00 per person. There are 100 seats available on a first-come first-serve basis. For a small additional fee you can also purchase a day long Metro pass. Tickets must be purchased by April 17. All monies are due when tickets are purchased. Sorry NO REFUNDS. Diamonz will open at 3 am to sell Coffee and donuts. Park in the back lot. For information call or email Bev Read : 610-746-9229 (leave message) or at work M-F 7am-4pm. 610-746-4407; <bevmanager@webtv.com>.

BENEFIT SALE FOR PA-GALA AND ACCO

The Spring PA-GALA / ACCO Benefit Garage Sale booth, (at the Super Gigantic Garage Sale) at AG Hall in Atown will be May 5 and 6. Anyone wishing to help or donate items, please call 610-432-5449. Proceeds will benefit ACCO, and PA-GALA- (the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance for political action).

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basis of: race, color, religion,national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, handicap or disability, marital status, family status, age, use of a guide animal, sexual orientation, or transgender status, and asks that organizations which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy against discrimination.

PLANET Parenthood

edited by Emily Dugan

"That's My Life Kind Of"

Two women raising two daughters brings interesting experiences on a daily basis. Add to that a father and stepmother who are not what you would call "supportive," and you get an equation filled with many "differences of opinion."

Recently while we were watching television with our oldest daughter, an advertisement for "The Next Best Thing," came on. She had already requested to see it, and we had agreed to take her. We all knew it was about a gay man raising a child, so though it is a PG-13 movie, we felt comfortable about it for our almost 12 year-old daughter. Unfortunately this became another example of our decisions being questioned by the girls' father and stepmother (and not in our presence, but in the girls') and since our kids are "normal" and act like all kids, they take the occasional opportunity to play on the conflict between both sets of parents.

So, our daughter nonchalantly said, "Susan says I'm not allowed to see that." When I asked, "Why, has she seen it and feels that there's something in it that would be inappropriate for you?" She replied, "No, she hasn't seen it, she just thinks I shouldn't see it. Does that mean I can't see it? You said we would see it." I diplomatically said, "Well, we'll talk to Susan and see what the problem is."

This very special task was quickly relegated to my partner. She called and asked their father why Susan said our daughter was not allowed to see "The Next Best Thing." In all of his infinite wisdom, he responded "I don't know anything about it." Then, Susan got on the other line. She said she didn't say "couldn't ," she said she didn't know enough about it, that's why she said she "shouldn't" see it. Since we've heard, on more than one occasion, what a "terrible" environment the girls are being raised in, I believed the issue was more likely that she knew too much about the movie's content. That seemed to be confirmed when the content was mentioned and suddenly Susan had laundry that couldn't wait.

Then their father said, "Oh, if that's what it's about, I don't think she should see it either." (Well, I didn't want to be the one to unveil our little secret, but the girls are being raised by two lesbians and have been for 5 1/2 years, which I'm pretty sure these people are aware of, considering the messy custody agreement 4 years ago). Unsatisfied with the responses we were (and weren't) getting , my partner asked, "Well, why did you take them both (the 11 year old and the 8 year old) to see "Step- mom" which was PG-13?" The response was, "That movie had a great message." Well, other than 'Susan, which of the girls got a good feeling from a story where a mother gets critically ill and dies and the stepmother takes her place without a second thought? We were getting nowhere.The conversation ended.

Our daughter is too old to accept edicts without explanations. She wanted more answers. I responded evenly, "I'm not really sure, but maybe Susan thought the topic was too mature for you." She gave this a moment's thought, and with the most wisdom heard all night, she said, "Well, if Susan doesn't like what the movie's about and doesn't think I should see it, that's going to be a problem because that is my life, kind of. For kids, it should only matter who raised you, It shouldn't matter if you're gay or not."

With a sigh of relief, I thanked God that even after so many years of negative messages, our daughter has formed her own thoughts and opinions based on her own experiences.

So even though it can be quite annoying and frustrating when every word you utter is questioned in the way only a 12-year-old can. I also realize our daughter has developed a valuable skill that even the best teachers cannot teach. Even though our kids frequently hear misconceptions about gay life and gay parenting, I am thankful they are still able to figure out and understand the truth.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

LOCAL DOG OWNERS FACE TAX INCREASE

Breaking insider news leaked by local radio station.

Dog owning residents of the following counties NEED to pay attention to a new ordinance, which goes into effect in the next few months. Anyone owning a dog in Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe Counties MUST pay a new annual tax. The tax will be based on the weight of each dog. Waiving the dog's weight, up to 10 lbs, each pound over will be taxed $3.00 per pound. This tax will be paid annually by each dog owner. The dogs will also be required to "weigh in" on an annual basis. At this time, cats will be exempt from the tax, however, the cat exemption is subject to future review, according to County Tax Assessors.

Every dog is to be weighed-in at your local township office. The weigh-in will take place on Mondays, only from 8 am to 12 noon. Owners neglecting to weigh their dogs will be fined. The county will be tracking dog owners by the dog's license renewal date. The taxes and fines will be used to fund the new sports stadium. A portion will also be used to pay the salaries of the Black Diamonds baseball players.

Being a financial person, I have calculated the cost to be $520 per year, ANNUALLY, just for my partner's and my dogs! I could be investing this money! However, unexpected financial expenditures like this do come up, so I have begun to put a small amount of money into a fund weekly to pay this unexpected tax. And of course, I have already put our dogs on a crash diet combined with plenty of exercise, before the weigh in begins.

And by the way, April is a great month to pull an April Fool's Joke or two (and this is one of them). Enjoy the month.

Denise McKelvey is a local Financial Advisor. This column should be taken as merely one opinion, that may not apply or be appropriate to your personal financial situation.

A MESSAGE FROM TRAVIS

It's taken me awhile to get to where I am in life. Moving from New York, to Alaska, back to New York. Now I'm here in Bethlehem. And through all my moving I've found being gay isn't bad like it seemed everyone wanted me to believe growing up.

We are like everyone else. I say this because it took me awhile to believe it, to believe I can be gay and have love, dreams and maybe a little heartache.

I want to open a bookstore, become a writer, move to New Orleans, meet Anne Rice and write a story with her. But most of all, I want to fall in love, and run a gay youth support group. Is this too much to ask?

Well, let me tell you, I am gay. I love being gay. I'm not bad, and I'm sure as hell not evil. I'm like most other teens with hopes and dreams.

I guess my message is this: No matter who you are, what you are, you are not evil. Not just because some people want you to think you are. If it makes you happy, keep doing it, and to hell with them!

And me? I will keep dreaming, its gotten me this far. Remember, keep your head and dreams high. Nothing is impossible. Be what you are, and be proud of it.

Travis Simmons left his home in northern New York State at 16 to follow his dreams. He is now 18, supports himself and writes in his spare time. VFP editors hope he and other young GLBT people will become frequent contributors to this column. If you are a teenager andwant to write an article, call 610-432-5449.

HOT NEWS

B&N BOOK CLUB

The Barnes and Noble Gay and Lesbian Book Club will meet April 18 at 7:00 pm to discuss the book, "The Dreyfus Affair," by Peter Lefcourt, at Barnes and Noble in Whitehall. The book for the May 16 discussion (which will also begin at 7:00 p.m.) is "The Extra Man" by Jonathan Ames.

This information is brought to you by a book club member who also says, "We always have a lively discussion, a good time, and we get free beverages. Come joint us!"

ASC "DINING FOR FRIENDS"

"Dining For Friends" on May 6, allows the Lehigh Valley to come together for an exciting evening of individual dinner parties held at homes across the Lehigh Valley and a "Finale Event" which includes a silent auction, music and refreshments. The funds raised benefit the clients of AIDS Services Center. Dinners can be fancy, formal or casual. You provide the dinner, atmosphere and guests. We will provide you with invitations inviting your guests to make a donation to help provide HIV/AIDS services in our community. To register as a Dinner Host call 610-974-8701.

PFLAG NEWS

LV-PFLAG (Lehigh Valley Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will meet at NCC in the College Center, Room 134, at 3:30 on Sunday April 9th. This month's meeting will feature a segment of the video "If These Walls Could Talk," with Vanessa Redgrave as an elderly "spinster" who, in 1961, loses her life long companion.

PFLAG of Reading has voted to join with Lehigh Valley PFLAG to become one group with two area meeting dates and locations. The Reading faction will meet on April 6th at UUC of Reading, 412 Franklin Street. For information: 610-967-5219.

MCC SPECIAL SERVICES

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley, at 424 Center St, in Bethlehem, announces Special Services for this month: Sunday, April 16: Palm Sunday service, 5:50 pm, Church Sanctuary. Thursday, April 20: Passover Seder meal 7:30 pm, Church Fellowship Hall. Call the Church to reserve a seat (610-954-7775). Friday, April 21: Good Friday Service 7:30 pm, Church Sanctuary. Sunday, April 23: Easter Service 5:50 pm, Church Sanctuary.

REFORM RABBIS SUPPORT MARRIAGE

Reform Jewish leaders have overwhelmingly approved a resolution giving rabbis the option of presiding at gay commitment ceremonies making the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) the most influential U.S. religious group to sanction same-sex unions.

The resolution applies to the 1,800 members of CCAR, who serve at least 1.5 million Reform Jews. Reform Judaism is the largest and most liberal of Judaism's three major branches in North America. Rabbi Charles Kroloff, CCAR's president, said the resolution shows the conference's belief that "gay and lesbian Jews, and the committed relationships they form with their partners, deserve the recognition and respect due to people created in the image of God."

"It is not sinful to be a gay and lesbian," said Rabbi Paul Menitoff, executive vice president of CCAR, "It is sinful to have these prejudices and act out on them." Menitoff said he hoped other religions would adopt the resolution as a model.

GLBT@VYH NEWS

Last month's fund raiser held at the Stonewall for Valley Youth House's new GLBT youth program, was a terrific success. Though the event started after 10 pm on a Sunday, about 200 people from all parts of the community came out to show support. Air Products has agreed to match every dollar donated. The benefit generated over $2000 for GLBT@VYH.

Steve Libby, who started and supervises the youth group meetings, sends a special thanks to Stonewall manager Jim Black, Maxi Carter and all the show performers who took part.

The youth group for high school age teens, meets Tuesdays at VYH, 524 Walnut St., Allentown from 6 to 8 pm. Fifteen young men and women attended the last meeting. For information on VYH@GLBT call 610-432-6481.

PA-GALA LOBBYING DAY

SPARC, a state-wide coalition of GLBT groups, will sponsor a rally in Harrisburg on April 12. PA-GALA will co-ordinate a Hate-Crimes Bill lobbying day in conjunction with this event.The entire state GLBT community is encouraged to come to Harrisburg to be part of this effort. PA-GALA will provide each attendee with the name and office number of their Representative, so that participants can lobby their Reps to support the Hate-Crimes Bill.

GLOSS EVENTS

GLOSS's (Lehigh Valley's Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society) next game night will be on Saturday April 15 (tax day) at 7 pm. GLOSS also announces the creation of a new Lehigh Valley on-line calendar for the GLBT community. To find out about important events check the month at a glance.Click on <http://www.gloss.org/calendar.html>.To see a list of events click on <http://www.gloss.org/eventlist.html>.If you would like to advertise an event free of charge on the GLOSS Community Calendar, contact GLOSS by email <fabio@early.com>.

GMLV SCHEDULE

The Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley meetings are held at 7pm at UUCLV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. Refreshments will be served. A one dollar donation is requested. Schedule: April 8: Film- "Green Plaid Shirt," April 22: Game Night. Bring you favorite game, May 13: Film- "Broadway Damage."

LAST MONTH'S QUIZ ERRORS (OOPS)

Two wrong answers appeared in last month's quiz. #6: "Name DC Comics new gay superhero couple, was: D. Apollo and Midnighter. And #7: (C. 1990) was the first year the US Census counted "unmarried partners." But you knew that, right!

OUT THERE WEB SITE

Out There, the lesbian organization of Cedar Crest College, has a nifty new website. To learn what's happening with Out There at Cedar Crest, log on at: <www.cedarcrest.edu/clubs/outthere/index.html>.

BOWLING LEAGUE FORMING

A GLBT Bowling League is forming in the Lehigh Valley. An open group has been getting together on Monday nights for "fun bowl" since February at the Mountainville Lanes, on So. 4th St. in Allentown at 8:30 pm. All levels of players are invited. Call Scott at 610-691-8303 or just show up on Monday, to be part of this event.

GLORA EVENTS

GLORA (Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading) organizes heathy and fun social events for GLBT people. For details and directions contact GLORA at <GLORAinPA@aol.com> or write to GLORA at PO Box 1952, Allentown,PA 18105-1952 to become a member and receive their monthly newsletter for the most up to date information about activities and events.

ONLY PAID PA-GALA MEMBERS GOT THIS ISSUE OF VFP IN THE MAIL. JOIN PA-GALA TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION.

CALENDAR

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.760.1759
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay &Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.
Bowling- Monday Nights, Mountainville Lanes, 610-691-8303
Enigma Players 610-432-0706
EQUAL! at Lucent Technologies 610.712.5532
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GMBG- Gay Men's Buddist Group- Meditation and discussion, 610-776-1768
GLEE at Air Products
GLASS- at Lehigh Univ. Every other Thursday 6pm , 2nd fl. Lamberton Hall , 610.758.3469
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952, email- GLORAinPA@AOL.COM
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball,. Tennis, Racquet Ball . 610.434.2966.
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.820.0977.
Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family and Friends 1st Monday each month 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642
KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at 6:30pm, Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays, UUCLV Bethlehem. 610.366.3320, steveo@early.com
MS - Moravian Sanctuary, PO Box 5053, Bethlehem, PA 10815.
MCC - Metropolitian Community Church, office- 424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775
NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday from 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge),, College Center call 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531
NEPATA-North East PA Transgender Assoc see Renaissance
NCFM- New Covenant Family Ministries, Sundays, 11am, Open Space Gallery, 610-791-0716 / 740-3097, email NCFM98@aol.com
Out There- At Cedar Crest College
PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Information Booklet, and Political Lobbying) 1st Tuesdays, Monthly P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449
PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 2nd Sundays 3pm 610.967.5219
Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Film Festival - In July ... 215.790.1510.
Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.pridelv.org>
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs., Episcopal Church 16th and Turner, Allentown.

APRIL 2000 PRIMARY ELECTION ON THE 4TH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 GLBT @ VYH TEEN DANCE
2 GLOSS NCFM UUCLV WDIY	3 RAA INTEGRITY	4 Primary Election Vote!!!	5	6 ACCO RAA GLOSS P-FLAG Reading	7 KS	8 GMLV FILM WDIY GLOSS
9 GLOSS UUCLV NCFM MCC P-FLAG LV	10 RAA Bowling	11 GLOSS LVGMC PRIDE GLBT @ VYH	12 RALLY PA-GALA LOBBY DAY	13 ACCO RAA GLOSS	14 ACCO CONCERT KS	15 GLOSS WDIY UUCLV AUCTION
16 UUCLV NCFM MCC GLOSS Palm WDIY Sun.	17 RAA Bowling	18 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH B&N	19 PASSOVER	20 MCC Seder ACCO RAA GLOSS	21 MCC Good Friday Service KS	22 GMLV Game Night GLOSS WDIY
23 GLOSS NCFM MCC EASTER WDIY GLOSS 30	24 Bowling RAA March on DC	25 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	26	27 RAA GLOSS ACCO CONCERT	28 KS	29 GLOSS WDIY

MAY 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 INTEGRITY	2 PA-GALA GLBT @ VYH GLOSS LVGMC	3	4 ELLEN at State Theater	5 KS	6 ASC Dining PA-GALA / ACCO Garage Sale
7 PA-GALA ACCO Garage Sale	8 RAA Bowling	9 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	10	11 ACCO RAA GLOSS	12 KS	13 GMLV Film WDIY GLOSS
14 GLOSS UUCLV NCFM MCC PFLAG- Mother's Day	15 RAA Bowling	16 GLOSS LVGMC B&N GLBT @ VYH	17	18 ACCO RAA GLOSS	19 KS	20 GLOSS WDIY
21 UUCLV MCC NCFM GLOSS WDIY	22 RAA Bowling	23 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	24	25 ACCO GLOSS RAA	26 KS	27 GMLV GLOSS WDIY
28 GLOSS NCFM UUCLV MCC WDIY WDIY	29 RAA Bowling	30 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	31	ACCO RAA GLOSS	KS	GLOSS WDIY

JUNE 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 GLOSS RAA ACCO	2 KS	3 WDIY GLOSS
4	5 PRIDE FILM AT MUHLENBERG	6 COLLEGE MOVIE WEEK FILM	7 FILM	8 FILM	9 FILM	10 GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT
11 PFLAG "PRIDE PARENTS" MCC PRIDE SERVICE	12 ENIGMA PLAYERS	13 PA-GALA EVENT AT STONEWALL	14 PRIDE FILM NIGHT	15	16	17 PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE
18 MCC PRIDE SERVICE	19 RAA Bowling	20 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	21	22 ACCO GLOSS RAA	23 KS	24
25 FACT SUMMER SOLSTICE DINNER	26 RAA Bowling	27 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH	28	29 ACCO RAA GLOSS	30 KS	GLOSS WDIY

PRIDE WEEK

Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., PO Box 3624 Allentown, PA 18016 610- 821- 2955 renlv @ ren.org
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
SC- Susquehanna Camping Club- 503 General Sutter Ave. Lititz, PA 17543, www.paonline.com/outdoors
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
TST- Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth. 610-867-1689, touchstone@nni.com
Triangle Interests- Lesbian Network and Credit Union 215.487.3736... 215.508.1616 email TIFCU@aol.com www.TRIANGLEINTERESTS.org
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449
WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30 pm Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way Out (sponsored by Equal at Lucent) 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT @ VYH TEEN GROUP-EVERY TUESDAY
BOWLING AT MOUNTAINVILLE LANES EVERY MONDAY
19TH STREET MOVIES THIS MONTH INCLUDE "BOYS DON'T CRY" CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS
GMLV FILM NITE - APRIL 8
PFLAG LV - APRIL 9
BOWLING - APRIL 10
SPARC RALLY - PA-GALA LOBBY DAY APRIL 12
ACCO AT GODFREY'S - APRIL 14
GLOSS GAME NIGHT - APRIL 15
UUCLV SERVICE AUCTION - APRIL 15
PALM SUNDAY -MCC- APRIL 16
BARNES AND NOBLE BOOK CLUB - APRIL 18
PRIDE GENERAL MEETING- APRIL 19
PASSOVER SEDER - MCC- APRIL 20
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE- MCC- APRIL 21
GMLV GAME NIGHT - APRIL 22
EASTER SERVICE - MCC-- APRIL 23
ACCO WITH NORTHWEST - APRIL 26
MARCH ON WASHINGTON - APRIL 30
ELLEN AT STATE THEATER- MAY 4
ASC DINING FOR FRIENDS - MAY 6
BENEFIT GARAGE SALE FOR ACCO & PA-GALA MAY 6-7
GMLV FILM NIGHTS - MAY 13
BARNES AND NOBLE BOOK CLUB - MAY 16

THE INFORMATION IN THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WE WILL PUBLISH ARTICLES ABOUT NOT-FOR-PROFIT LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE OF SERVICE OR INTEREST TO THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY, FREE OF CHARGE. CONTACT VFP - 610-432-5449.

PRIDE FESTIVAL UP DATES

PRIDE WEB SITE

Allyson Hamm, Pride Co-chair, reports the Pride Web site is now active at <www.pridelv.org> log on to get up-to-date info, and consider advertising your business on the Pride Web page. Contact Pride for information.

WORK AT PHILLY PRIDE AS FUNDRAISER FOR LV PRIDE FESTIVAL

Special volunteers are needed to raise funds for LV Pride while working at the Philadelphia Pride Fest. Volunteers from LV Pride work booths at Philly Pride, on June 11th, and Philly donates money to the LV Festival. Volunteers get free: parking, admission, tee shirts, tickets to after festival events, beer and a chance to support both festivals. To volunteer contact Pride.

PRIDE FILM COMMITTEE PLANS EXTRA WEEK FOR FILMS AT COLLEGES

The Pride Film Committee has decided to not only organize the Wednesday, June 14 Film Festival, (7:30 pm at Northampton Community College), but also will show a different GLBT themed film each night at area colleges the week before Pride week, June 5th through 9th. At press time Muhlenberg has confirmed for Monday June 5th at 7:30 pm, confirmations from Moravian, Lehigh, and Lafayette are pending. Two of the films selected to be shown during Pride Film Week are "Stolen Moments" a movie about Lesbian History and "Get Real" a British gay love story with real world consequences. To volunteer for the film committee, contact Pride.

MORE ON THE FIELD

Pride has dramatically increased the number of "vendor packets" sent out this year and expects this festival to host a much larger number of interesting booths, games, and food vendors. If you want to reserve a booth or know a vendor who would like to be part of the festival, contact Pride.

PRIDE RAFFLE

A special Pride raffle is being planned. Businesses and individuals are being asked for prize donations. Please contact Pride.

PRIDE GUIDE ADVERTISING

The Pride Guide which will list the performers and other events, will be handed out to the thousands of attendees at the festival and during the events of Pride Week. If your business would like to advertise in the Guide and help support the festival contact Pride.

PRIDE PARADE

Micki Katz, organizer of the Pride Parade reports that the parade route along Linden Street and into the park is reserved. Groups that are signing up to march include a Fife and Bugle Corp. Last year's first ever parade was absolutely great with hundreds of marchers. This year's will be even better. To become a parade volunteer, or to sign up your group to march, contact Pride.

KIDS SPACE FOR FAMILIES AT FESTIVAL

To celebrate Pride Families, a new addition to this year's festival will be a special "Kids' Corner" where children can play games, have their faces painted, be entertained, and have kid oriented fun. To volunteer to help with the organization of Kid's Corner, contact Pride.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

The Pride Entertainment Committee Chair Terry Richline reported at the most recent Pride Meeting that the committee is proposing some seriously big name entertainment. One of the two groups mentioned drew gasps of delight from VFP editors. Highly regarded local groups are also being considered. To become an entertainment committee volunteer or to recommend an entertainer, contact Pride.

PRIDE WEEK EVENTS

Pride Week is filling up with many special events. Besides Pride College Movie Week, June 5-9, Pride Week will include the Gay Men's Chorus Spring Concert, "The Alex and Judy Affair," at NCC's Lipkin Theater on Sat. June 10; PFLAG's special presentation "Pride Parents" at NCC room 134 on Sunday, June 11 at 3pm; MCC's special "Penetcost Sunday" service also on Sunday, June 11 at 424 Center Street Bethlehem, at 5:50pm; the Enigma Players performance on Monday, June 12, a special PA-GALA fund raiser event on Tuesday, June 13 at Stonewall, Pride Film Night on Wednesday June 14 (see above); the Pride Festival and Parade on Sat. June 17 and MCC's special end of Pride Week Service, Trinity Sunday, on Sunday June 18. If your group plans a special event during Pride Week, contact Pride and VFP.

CONTACT PRIDE TO VOLUNTEER

Here's how to volunteer: Pride still needs the help of all the community to pull off the best festival ever. To contact Pride: call 610-770-6200, or email <lvpride@hotmail.com> or come to the next general meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 7 pm at UUCLV, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem.

Dear WTA,

The Millennium March on Washington is coming up. I'd like to go, but I've heard there is also some opposition to the MMOW. What's the deal. **Prospective Marcher**

Dear Prospective Marcher,

There are two points of view and both are valid. Huge marches like this only happen every few years. If you have never been to one...go. DC will be completely filled with the GLBT community. Everyone you see, in the subway, on the street, in cafes, everywhere, will be gay or lesbian or a wannabe. The excitement, confirmation and support you get from an event like this cannot be equaled. Quite simply, for a day, you can feel what it would be like if everyone were gay or lesbian. This is what it is like to be in the majority. And it's great

The controversy comes from the fact that marches like this, while empowering, really do little, or nothing to change anti-GLBT laws, or fight for legislation. Our PA State Representatives and Senators just don't care if 2 million GLBT people march in Washington. People working for GLBT rights wish that the energy and huge amounts of money going into this march were actually being spent to lobby for positive laws or to support pro-rights candidates. Especially in a Presidential Election year.

So figure out, if you are going to the MMOW, how much you are spending to go, eat, buy souvenirs, stay overnight and then ask yourself if you have spent that much money on supporting the actual fight for laws and candidates who will make laws that will protect the GLBT population from discrimination in employment, housing, child custody, hate crimes. Have you spent any time or money to support the actual fight for same-sex marriage? Did you even take time to vote? If you don't donate money or time to lobbying organizations who are fighting for your rights...who will?

This controversy about the MMOW is an important thing to consider. To be sure you are supporting both social empowerment, and political lobbying efforts, go ahead and go to the March, but at least spend $20 to be a member of PA-GALA too.

Dear What's That About,

You should have mentioned "Working Assets" phone company in the article about supporting pro GLBT companies. **Allyson**

Dear Allyson,

You are absolutely right, "Working Assets" has done a lot more for the community than other long distance companies. "Working Assets" should be supported, sorry we skipped them the first time.

Dear VFP,

It's great that you pursued the "Borders" matter so thoroughly! More power to you! Keep up the good fight! **Mary Borhek**

Dear Mary, Thanks.

BUYING OR SELLING A HOUSE?

Don't forget that Remax Real Estate Agent Gail Hoover has graciously offered to contribute $100 to PA-GALA for any completed real estate transaction, when the client mentions they heard about her through this paper. So if you're "in the market" for a property in the greater Lehigh Valley, call Gail at 610-791-4400/ 433-7919 and mention PA-GALA and the Valley Free Press.

PFLAG AND EQUAL! WEBSITES

Lehigh Valley PFLAG has a webpage of the Lehigh Valley esources available for the GLBT community, at <http://www.users.fast.net/~pflag/'>.The EQUAL! at Lucent Activities webpage is now available on the internet (before it was only on Lucent-web) at <http://www.users.fast. net/~pflag index10.html>.

ANOTHER VIEW
BY WILLIAM FETTERMAN

STICKS AND STONES

What are you? Are you a Fag, or a Faggot? Perhaps you are a Pansy, a Fairy, a Nancy-Boy, a Fruit, or a Homo. No? Well, perhaps you are a Dyke, or a Bull-Dyke, or a Butch.

The list of derogatory names can go on and on. These shame-based labels are usually said with a rather ugly tone of voice, a hostile facial expression, and an unloving intent. Derogatory name-calling is one of the clear sources from which we learn to internalize homophobia. Suicide rates, most particularly among teenagers, are much higher in the gay and lesbian community than in general society.

Sometimes we are even more hateful towards ourselves than so-called outsiders are to us. Just one example I still recall was from around six years ago. I went to a gay bar on Christmas night to have a few drinks. As I entered, I was happily wearing a scarf that my younger sister had given to me. The scarf was an exquisitely designed and hand-made one-of-a-kind item. And, of course, there just had to be some bitchy queen standing right there, ready to take aim and fire a supposedly witty insult about my poor taste in clothing. Well, insults are insults, no matter how hard we try to disguise them.

As I find out about more and more gay and lesbian events, I continue to try new experiences. One such gathering began by specifically addressing the fact that as individuals we have been victims of abuse, and that we must be conscious of this in order to no longer perpetuate such attitudes and behaviors amongst ourselves. The slogan for the entire event was "NO NEW DAMAGE!" It almost worked, too. Unfortunately sometime in the middle of the event, some of the women started bitterly complaining about "those damn faggots" and some of the guys started complaining about "those pushy lesbians who constantly have to try and run the show." The final days limped along to a quiet conclusion.

The hurtful names hurled at us as children wound very deeply. Old behaviors and attitudes die hard. The young gay man that thought he was being funny by insulting me---I do the same thing in return. I label him "bitchy queen." The week-long gay and lesbian event that begins to deteriorate and segregate---same thing. Slogans like "NO NEW DAMAGE!" or "GAY IS GOOD!" or "OUT AND PROUD!" are great for parades, and definitely provide a decent beginning towards self-acceptance. But more needs to be done.

For me, it is the boring, day-to-day events of life that can be the most challenging. Ultimately, I am none of the labels that either straight or gay society has thrust upon me. It's fine to play with labels--as long as it is playful and not disguised aggression--but experience keeps showing that as long as I limit myself to labels (good or bad), I'm still just limited. And when I'm limited, I can never hope to be fuly present and alive, never fully responsive and spontaneous, and never be truly me. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names break my heart. And it's the heart that is the most difficult to heal.

UUCLV SPECIAL EVENT

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St. Bethlehem, will hold, "Service Auction 2000" beginning at 5:00 pm. The chili dinner will start at 5:30pm. Cost is $5.00 per family, $2.00 single. There will be child care. The event also features, Tarot Card readings, a Kid's Auction, and a raffle.

To have The Valley Free Press mailed directly to your home, become a member of PA-GALA.

A VIEW FROM A DYKE
BY LIZ BRADBURY

VERMONT

You probably already know that the Vermont State Supreme Court charged the Vermont Legislature to come up with a plan to secure same-sex couples equal civil rights, either through marriage or some type of domestic partner recognition. And the Court said the Legislature couldn't drag its feet.

So Vermont's House of Representatives came up with a plan for Civil Unions for same-sex couples (marriage was just too much for them.) The State Senate is debating it now. Good or bad? Both.

It's bad because it isn't marriage and so it still treats gays and lesbians as second class. Civil Unions in Vermont will not be recognized Federally (the way marriages are) so Vermont same-sex couples will get State granted rights, but not Federally granted rights (there are 1029).

Legal marriage is the fastest road to full equality. How can anyone legally discriminate against us, in child custody, employment, the military, if we can legally marry? They can't. That's why the far right fears marriage above all else. Not because it jeopardizes "traditional marriage," but because legal same-sex marriage jeopardizes the foundation of all discrimination against gays and lesbians. The Far Right uses the fear of homosexuality to scare ignorant people into donating money. If we can marry, gays and lesbians will be the (legally recognized) family down the street. Just folks. Not scary anymore. Then the Far Right will have to create another imaginary threat to society to get ignorant people to pay them to fight against it.

But the creation of Civil Unions in Vermont, is also very good. You can tell because even though it's not marriage, the Far Right is desperately fighting it, insisting it is too near marriage to allow it to exist (are these people amazing or what, don't they have anything better to do? Couldn't they spend their time, fighting pollution, or cancer, or illiteracy?)

Vermont Civil Unions are serious business. They create a real legal bond of protections and responsibilities between two people and with the State. To end the union, the couple will have to legally divorce (no more just loading the UHaul and each taking a cat). These Unions will clearly demonstrate that: 1.The world won't come to an end if same-sex couples have legal recognition. 2.Traditional marriages won't suffer. 3. Life for straight people will stay pretty much the same.

Gay men and lesbians will greatly benefit from this first step in Vermont. Civil Rights is slow, but it can be steady if we keep working politically. And it is political, whether we like it or not. This happened because the Legislature, Governor and the Supreme court in Vermont are not Conservative, and these officials were elected by Vermont voters.

And don't say we couldn't do that too! We could elect a PA State Government like that by simply voting in every election for candidates that support our rights. In the recent Primary election, less than 20% of Lehigh Valley voters voted. GLBT people are 10%, we could decide every election if we all went to the polls.

Do you want the right to marry, to keep your job, your kids? Is it right that a company's policy says if they find out you're gay they'll fire you? (Can you name at least four LV employers that have such a policy?) Do you realize the average Religious Right follower probably contributes 10% of their annual income to their church, which in turn uses that money to fight against your rights!!! How much do you contribute to groups that fight for your rights? If you don't vote, if you don't contribute to the political fight for your own rights, who will do it for you?

PA-GALA THANKS ROBWIN PRESS

PA-GALA wishes to thank RobWin Press for graciously (and at the last minute) folding thousands of candidate guides.

"GOOD KNIGHT CHARLY BROWN"

The day before the California Primary, Liz and I emailed everyone we knew, asking them to contact their friends and families in California and ask them to vote against the Knight Initiative - the anti-gay marriage bill on the California ballot.

I got this response from Charly:

"The Episcopal Church Convention in Colorado (to which I was a lay, as opposed to clergy, delegate), voted to table indefinitely any vote on the wrongness or rightness of (homo) sexual behavior. A victory for some and a feeling of pending doom for others. It was a good thing. Charly."

IT WAS A GOOD THING!?! So, I emailed back: "Why?" To which she responded "Why what?" End of discussion. Not a surprise.

I've know Charly for more than three decades. In some ways I know her pretty well. OK, I confess. Liz, my first true love, was not my first girlfriend. Believe me, I made a few questionable choices and, well, Charly was the first. When she dumped me, she simply said I should be happy for her because she was now finally with someone who was somebody (who incidentally dumped her within a year...not that I'm gloating). Lesson number one: People, who change their own values depending on who they are with, don't have a developed sense of their own values. Values aren't just currency exchanged for popularity and job security.

Charly's family was Jewish and politically liberal. Charly took pride in reminding everyone that her grandfather was the State Supreme Court Judge who, in a significant separation of Church and State case, removed the phrase "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance. And, if my memory serves me, Charly is a lesbian. But as currency in academia, outside of maybe Smith, being a lesbian is small change. Even in a profession like physical therapy, who's founder was a lesbian. Talk about re-writing one's history! Charly is now an Episcopalian (?), in the closet politically, and living in a cave in the southwest. All we asked her to do, after all, was send an email, not run for office on the Socialist Separatist Lesbian Ticket.

So what is it that causes a person to deny who they are just to fit in? For some, it's because they don't believe they really can and deserve to lead happy normal lives as they are, and for others it's because they don't want to take risks. One of the realities of the crusade for equal rights however, is that ultimately everyone has to choose which side they are on. That is why people label legislation like Peter Knight's anti-gay referendum - divisive. On divisive issues we must know what our own core values really are in order to act in our own best interests. And though there are those among us who struggle with the responsibility of keeping themselves and their partners healthy or who are harnessed by dogmatic theologies and rendered helpless to be true to themselves, we must take the responsibility as a community to thoroughly understand how marriage or civil unions will affect us, our children, and other gay men and lesbians. And many of us are going to have to take bigger risks than sending an email to California, if we really want Civil Rights.

ALLENTOWN HEALTH BUREAU ALERT

The Allentown Health Bureau has launched a major hand washing campaign designed to encourage people to prevent illness. It sounds crazy, but hand washing is the single best line of defense against illness and yet MANY people forget to do it or do it incorrectly. Hands should be washed for 20 seconds (minimum) with soap and running warm water, being careful to wash between fingers and under finger nails as well as possible.

The AHB has updated well known nursery rhymes and literary classics for posters to get the message across, for example: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the era of people not washing their hands after using the bathroom, it was the age of people eating with their hands and falling violently ill after transferring bacteria to each other--in short, it was not a very sanitary period."

POP QUIZ

1. On March 2, 2000, the site of the Stonewall Inn in NYC was designated a national historic landmark. The Stonewall Riots considered the start of the modern gay rights movement, occurred in 19__. A. 69 B.72 C.75 D.79

2. E*Trade (the on-line stock brokerage company) founder, Kathy Levinson:
A. Donated $300,000 to fight Knight Amendment.
B. Donated $300,000 to support Knight Amendment.
C. Is a transexual. D. Is a lesbian.

3. A new West Coast fast food chain is courting gay and lesbian franchise investors. It's name is:
A. Gertrude's B. Weiner World
C. Hamburger Mary's D. Bearse and Whine

4.Who is set to play "Grace's" new professional rival?
A. Delta Burke B. Kathy Najimy
C. Annie Potts D. Joan Collins

5.The NY Opera is currently presenting "____," an opera originally written in the 1940's by Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson.
A. The Mother of Us All B. A Rose...
C. Ecalpemos D. Where is Where

6. The above opera's main character is:
A. Gertrude Stein B. Sappho
C. Emily Dickinson D. Susan B. Anthony

7. Which State recently passed DP benefits for State employees? A.VT B.CT C.DE D. MD

8. A new Fox sitcom called "Don't Ask," casts ___ as a blue collar gay dad.
A. Anthony Paglia B. John Goodman
C.Ted Danson D. Nathan Lane

9. Across America Realty lists gay & lesbian softball as an important feature of what city?
A. Dallas B.Tucson C. Portland,ME D.Birmingham

10. ____was inducted into the People's Hall of Fame of the NY Center for Urban Folk Culture as"urban heroes who enliven America's cultural life."
A. Lesbian Avengers B. Lesbian Herstory Archives
C. The Village People D. NYC Gay Men's Chorus

This month, forms for the U.S. Census will probably be sent to your house. To be counted as a gay or lesbian couple indicate that you are "unmarried partners," even if you are spiritually married. Currently this is the only way the Census will count our families. And in order to establish our existence, **we must be counted!**

1.A 2.A&D 3.C 4.D 5.A 6.D 7.B 8.B 9.D 10.B

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We believe it would improve the quality of lifein the Lehigh Valley if all people were legally protected from unfair discrimination based upon: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation (actual or perceived), marital status, family status, age, handicap or disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.
PA-GALA,

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

GLASS at Lehigh University

Safe-Space at Lehigh University

PFLAG of Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

GLB Student Union at NCC,

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Lucent

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere-Cedar Crest

6th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together)

SAGE at Muhlenberg

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Service Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity-Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

VFP will continue to publish the "Honor Roll" of organizations supporting this Anti-discrimination Statement. To add the name of your organization to this list, call (432-5449) or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTE

"And then I thought of Matthew Shepard and a lot of other people who are no longer with us because hate speech unchecked is the parent of hate crime unbridled. And I said yes."

Bruce Vilanch on contemplating whether or not to appear on "Politically Incorrect" with a panel that included Rev. Lou Sheldon and Bill Horn who Vilanch calls "the right wing's pit bulls paid to come on (tv shows) and make a lot of (gay hating) noise."

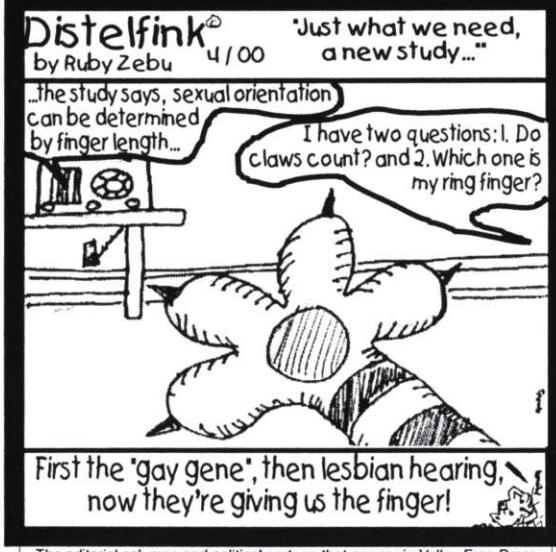
SISTER BETTY BOWERS' EX-GAY MINISTRIES (A PARODY FROM THE NATIONAL PFLAG NEWSLETTER)

C.A.S.H. - Christians Are Saving Homosexuals
Because at the end of every rainbow, there's C.A.S.H...

Hello, I'm Sister Betty Bowers, and I am the world's most perfect Christian. I am the brains behind CASH-Christians Are Saving Homosexuals. CASH guarantees that it will turn even the swishiest, perverted pansey into an "Ex-Gay" suitable for marriage-but even more important - suitable for fundraising mailers and full-page ads in "Time" and "Newsweek."

CASH has only two goals: 1. To turn people God has told us He despises anyway, into profitiable, attention-getting PUBLICITY MACHINES who will finally contribute to society and the economy by increasing Family Values fundraising and church tithings, and 2.To provide artistic husbands to women who become flummoxed when arranging flowers, picking complementary fabrics for lining drapes, choosing furniture or throw pillows, or who have historically ruined otherwise suitable outfits by slipping on the wrong pair of shoes.

Yes, CASH is "turning the tithe" on these horribly arch homosexuals, leading these aesthetically-overloaded lost lambs back into the bosom of our Church by using a method as old as religion itself- COERCIVE TORTURE.



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